



Elected Officials And Executive Level Leadership Training Curriculum

Guide to Terrorist Threats, Motivations, and Types of Attack (CBRNE)

Developed by:



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KEY DEFINITIONS**Terrorism**

"Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence, or threatened use of force or violence, against persons and places for the purpose of intimidating and / or coercing a government, its citizens, or any segment thereof for political or social goals."

- Department of Justice, FBI

Weapons of Mass Destruction

(A) Any destructive device with an explosive charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, or mine or device similar to the above;

(B) any weapon that is designed or intended to cause death or serious bodily injury through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals, or their precursors;

(C) any weapon involving a disease organism; or

(D) any weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life.

- 18 USC, Section 2332a

POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES

Individuals and organizations (foreign or domestic) may have one or more objectives, including:

- Producing fear
- Demonstrating power by killing many people
- Threatening civil liberties, economy, and ideals
- Eliminating the faith of people in their government
- Demoralizing a government, its citizens and their beliefs
- Causing economic, social, and/or agricultural destruction
- Threatening or using WMD to negotiate a position of power
- Advancing a cause through media coverage of a terrorist event

POTENTIAL MOTIVATIONS

Individuals and organizations may be motivated by various social, financial, economic, political, religious, and personal forces, including:

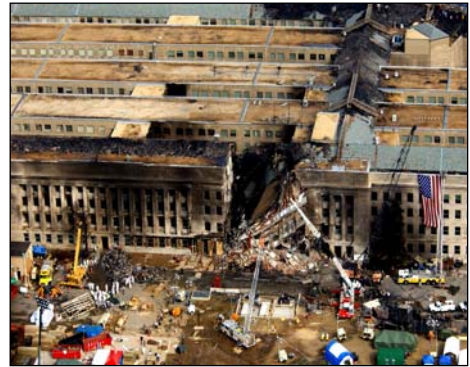
Domestic Examples

- Abortion
- Environment
- Animal rights
- Judicial decisions
- Belief in racial superiority / inferiority
- Personal grievances against individuals or groups



Foreign Examples

- Military actions
- Super-national hegemony
- Intervention in foreign affairs
- Real or perceived defamation of religion
- Suppression of free expression of religion
- Demand for release of hostages and prisoners



POTENTIAL TARGETS

Targets of terrorism may be chosen for a variety of reasons, or none at all. Among the most commonly selected targets are those that target...

- Good name recognition (e.g. WTC, Sears Tower, Olympic Games)
- Emotional impact (e.g. Statue of Liberty, Little League World Series)
- Significant dates (e.g. Christmas, New Years' Eve, 9/11)
- Specific groups (e.g. financial institutions, embassies)
- Specific events (e.g. Democratic/Republican National Convention, athletic events)



Targets may include:

- Government functions
- Air, rail, roadway, ports / harbors systems
- Gas, water, electric, waste water, telephone
- Buildings (hospitals), events, and organizations

Forms of attack may include:

- Explosion and fire
- Hostage taking and shooting
- Computer attacks and Internet disruption
- Release of chemical and biological agents
- Nuclear weapons and/or radioactive material

THE IMPACT OF ATTACKS

General Impact

- Mass casualties / mass fatalities
- Curtailment of critical resources and services
- Disruption of infrastructure systems
- Disruption of work and economy
- Increased evidence of critical incident stress

Impact on Responders

- New operational environment
- New operational techniques
- Onsite training required



- Rapid coordination of operations
- Special resources required
- Increased evidence of critical incident stress

Impact on Local, State, and Federal Governments

- Loss of facilities, resources, and personnel
- Disruption of services and loss of tax base
- Possible loss of organizational leadership
- New requirements to support response and recovery efforts
- Unexpected expenditures and changes in operating procedures

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD)**CBRNE = Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive****Chemical Weapons**

Classes of agents producing incapacitation, serious injury, or death:

- Nerve agents
- Vesicants (Blister agents)
- Cyanides (Blood agents)
- Pulmonary (Choking agents)
- Irritating (Tearing agents)



Chemical weapons can be stored, transported, and employed in solid, liquid, and/or gaseous form. Consequently, chemical weapons are among the most cost effective WMD devices per victim. However, the chemical must be spread using a dispersion device (e.g. explosion). Many conditions affect the threat posed by chemical weapons, including the following:

- Temperature
- Humidity
- Precipitation
- Wind speed
- Nature of terrain and buildings

Depending on the specific conditions above, the effects of chemical weapons can range from mild to deadly.

Biological Weapons

Biological weapons are disease causing microorganisms (pathogens) or toxins developed from or produced by living organisms.

Pathogens are organisms (bacteria, parasite, virus) causing diseases in a living agent that:

- Enter the body through inhalation, ingestion, or contact
- Grow and reproduce once in a person's body
- Can be contagious and cause an epidemic



Pathogens that may be used for biological weapons include bacteria such as Anthrax, Plague, Tularemia, Cholera, and others. Viruses that may be used for biological weapons include Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (Ebola, Marburg, etc.), Smallpox, and others.

Toxins, on the other hand, are NOT living organisms. They are substances developed from or produced by living organisms. Some examples are Ricin, which is produced from the castor bean, and Botulism Toxin, which is produced by the botulinum bacteria. Toxins enter the body the same way as pathogens but are not contagious.



Biological weapons, particularly if transmissible from person to person, have the potential to cause hundreds to hundreds of thousands of casualties. As a result of the great number of sick and incapacitated persons, adequate levels of public services and medical care may be very difficult to maintain. Similarly, biological weapons could necessitate the a decision to use isolation, quarantine, and other containment methods that would greatly restrict personal freedoms and adversely affect life in a community.

Radiological Weapons



A radiation dispersal device (RDD), or “Dirty Bomb,” is a device that is used to spread radioactive material. The initial explosion kills or injures those closest to the blast, but the radioactive product remains so that it exposes and contaminates victims, survivors, and emergency responders. Radiological weapons may be assembled with any available radioactive source materials, including medical wastes and consumer products such as home smoke detectors.

Radiological weapons are expected to cause significant psychological impacts if used, far beyond the physical risk to individuals, due to perceptions of radioactivity. Similarly, radiological weapons have the potential to cause great panic and render property uninhabitable and un-useable for an extended period, until remediated. These effects may have serious social, political, and economic implications for a community.

Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are explosive weapons using special nuclear material as the fuel. Developed during World War II and used against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, these weapons are now in the possession of several countries worldwide. Complex and expensive, nuclear weapons are not known to be in the possession of any terrorist groups. However, proliferation of nuclear technology continues, and the diversion of nuclear material and completed weapons from state-sponsored nuclear weapons programs remains a chief concern of Federal law enforcement and homeland security officials.

The impact of a nuclear detonation anywhere in the United States would be catastrophic. Even crude first generation weapons would decimate a large area of even the largest cities. Territory beyond the immediate blast area would be severely contaminated. Death and casualties would likely number in the 10,000's to 100,000's, with lasting medical implications for survivors. Continuity of Operations and Government (COOP & COG) would be very challenging given this type of attack.





Explosive Weapons

Explosive weapons are the most commonly used weapon of mass destruction, responsible for more than a hundred thousand incidents since the US Department of State began collecting records on terrorist activities worldwide. Explosives can be constructed to look like almost anything and can be placed or delivered in any number of ways. Most bombs are homemade, but their design is limited only by the skill and resources of the bomb-maker.

Most terrorist events in the United States using explosives and incendiary devices have been domestic in origin and have utilized homemade explosives. Such attacks include the Oklahoma City Bombing, the Centennial Olympic Park Bombing, and the Unabomber attacks. Many small pipe bombs are rendered safe by law enforcement every year, highlighting the ease of creating simple explosive devices. The Madrid Train Bombings and the London Bus and Tube Bombings highlight the large effect that relatively small, well placed terrorist attacks using explosives can have on a community. Suicide bombings, extremely difficult to prevent, even in areas with moderate to high security and common in some countries, pose another difficulty. Prevention steps would very likely have deleterious impacts on personal freedoms.